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# EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

0196641

Application Number

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DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int. Cl.4)
X	GB-A-2 052 946 (LIFE SAVERS) * Claims 1,7,14,16,20; page 1, lines 15-24; page 4, line 25 *	1	A 23 G 3/30
A	---	2,4-6	
A	LA REVUE EUROPEENNE DES INDUSTRIELS DE LA CONFISERIE, CHOCOLATERIE, CONFITURERIE, BISCUITERIE, BOULANGERIE, PATISSERIE, vol. 52, no. 9, September 1977, pages 26-31; E.ROCKSTRÖM: "Lycasin: propriétés diététiques et techniques d'application d'un nouveau type de Lycasin" * Page 29 *	1,2	
A	EP-A-0 102 032 (AJINOMOTO CO., INC.) * Page 17, lines 18-25 *	7,8	
A	US-A-4 248 895 (J.J.STROZ) * Claims 1,3,6,8,11; column 5, lines 5,6,15; examples 1-5 *	1,2,4-6	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl.4)
			A 23 G A 23 L
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 06-06-1988	Examiner SANTOS Y DIAZ A.I.
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS			
X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document		T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons ----- & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document	

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Flexible sugarless chewing gum.

(57)

Sugarless stick chewing gum which is flexible for extended shelf life periods is made with cooked aqueous hydro-generated starch hydrolysate having a moisture content of about  $8 \pm 4\%$ , and which may also contain glycerine.

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1 WHAT IS CLAIMED IS

1. A sugarless stick chewing gum which is flexible during storage.

2. A sugarless stick chewing gum according to Claim 1 wherein the gum is flexible during storage and comprises about 2 to 8% moisture, 0 to 12% glycerine and 20 ± 10% cooked aqueous hydrogenated starch hydrolysate having a moisture content of 8 ± 4%.

3. A chewing gum as in Claims 1 or 2 having a moisture content of about 2.0 to 5.0%.

4. A chewing gum as in any of Claims 1 to 3 having a glycerine content of about 4 to 8%.

5. A chewing gum as in any of Claims 1 to 4 comprising about 0.01 to 2% aspartic acid derivative as a sweetening agent.

6. A chewing gum as in Claim 5 in which the aspartic acid derivative is aspartame.

7. A chewing gum as in Claim 6 in which at least 80% of said aspartame is recoverable from said product after at least 40 days of accelerated aging at 100-105°F and 30% relative humidity.

8. A chewing gum as in Claim 6 in which at least 70% of said aspartame is recoverable from said product after at least 55 days of accelerated aging at 100-105°F and 30% relative humidity.

9. A chewing gum as in any of Claims 1 to 8 having an ERH value of about 25 to 50.

10. A chewing gum as in Claim 9 having an ERH value of about 30 to 40.

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TABLE 2

Example 3-8 Formulations

Component	3	4	5	6	7	8
5 Gum base	27.0	27.0	30.0	30.0	-	-
sorbitol powder	47.4	46.3	60.0	50.0	-	-
cooked HSH	15.0	16.5	0	0	-	-
glycerine	8.0	8.0	8.0	18.0	-	-
10 peppermint oil	1.2	1.2	1.0	1.0	-	-
lecithin	1.2	0.7	1.0	1.0	-	-
aspartame	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	-	-
colorant	0	0.1	0	0	-	-
% water	2 3	2 3	1 2	1 2	ca. 2	ca. 1
15 ERH Value:	37	35	14.6	14.0	25	19

When tested for flexibility, as described above, only Products 3 and 4 were flexible. Thus, only Products 3 and 4 had the desired combination of flexibility and high ERH values.

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A series of six sugarless stick chewing gum products were valuated for ERH values and flexibility values. The compositions of these products are indicated 5 below, or in Table 2.

Products 3 and 4 were made according to the present invention, as described above, using either a styrene-butadiene based gum base (Gum Base A) or a gum base made from an admixture of styrene-butadiene elastomer and 10 polyisobutylene elastomer (Gum Base B). Products 5 and 6 were made with Gum Base A and were based on prior art composition technology (high glycerine, low moisture content). Products 5 and 6 were otherwise prepared as described above. Product 7 is an off-the-shelf sample of 15 Trident spearmint gum manufactured by Warner Lambert Co. Product 8 was an off-the-shelf sample of Extra bubble gum manufactured by Wm. Wrigley Jr. Company. (Trident and Extra are trademarks of such companies).

The list of contents of the Extra product, as 20 indicated on the label thereof, is sorbitol, gum base, mannitol, glycerol, artificial and natural flavors, lecithin, aspartame, artificial colors and butylated hydroxy toluene.

The list of contents of the Trident product, as indicated on the label thereof, is sorbitol, gum base, 25 glycerine, mannitol, softeners, natural and artificial flavors, and sodium saccharin.

The compositions of the Trident and Extra products thus do not contain hydrogenated starch hydrolysate in any form.

30 It is believed that the Trident product contains about 2% water and that the Extra product contains about 1% water. The exact formulated contents of these products is not known.

The products were each analyzed for their ERH 35 value, as described above. The ERH values of these products are shown below in Table 2.

1 The APM was analyzed for, employing standard gas chromatography procedures, first at zero time, i.e., within 48 hours after the product was first made and prior to its being subjected to any accelerated aging, and then at various 5 intervals, as noted in Table I above, after 14 to 56 days of accelerated aging time. Based on experience each day of accelerated aging time is equivalent to about 7 to 7.5 days of commercial storage aging time. Thus, 40 days of accelerated aging time is equivalent to about 280 to 300 10 days, or about 10 months, of commercial storage time, and 50 days of accelerated aging time is equivalent to about 350 to 375 days, or at least one year, of commercial storage time. These test results thus indicate that the aspartame is very stable in the compositions of the present invention in that 15 at least about 80% of the APM is retained and recoverable for at least 40 days of accelerated aging and at least 70% of the aspartame is retained and recoverable for at least 55 days of accelerated aging time.

The aspartame need not be encapsulated or coated 20 in any way when employed in the products of the present invention. It and the other components of the chewing gum products in which it is used may all be freely dispersed in such products.

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1 The chewing gum products of the present invention  
 wer flexible. When tested for flexibility, as described  
 above, individual sticks of gum made from each of the  
 Example 1 and 2 products were twisted 3 times before  
 5 breaking. These tests for flexibility were conducted,  
 periodically, over a storage period of up to about 55 days  
 under accelerated aging conditions of 100-105% and about 30%  
 relative humidity.

The packaged chewing gum products of the present  
 10 invention made in Examples 1 and 2 were also evaluated for  
 the shelf life stability of the aspartame used therein while  
 stored for up to about 40 to 55 days under accelerated aging  
 conditions at 100-105°F and ambient, about 30%, relative  
 humidity, with the following results:

15 TABLE 1

% APM Recovery During Accelerated  
 Aging Storage of Examples 1 and 2  
 Chewing Gum Samples

20	days storage	0	14	21	28	35	41	56
	% APM Recovery							
	Example 1	93	NT	86.5	-	-	79.5	-
25	Example 2	96	94.5	NT	81.5	80	-	74

30 NT = Not tested at this time interval.

Examples 1 and 2

Using the pilot plant procedure described above two (2) chewing gum products were prepared from the following formulations, in % by weight.

Component	Weight % of Component	
	Example 1	2
Styrene-butadiene copolymer based gum base	30	30
sorbitol, powder	43	40
cooked hydrogenated starch hydrolysate	20	20
glycerine	5	8
flavor	1	1
lecithin	1	1
aspartame	0.2	0.2
moisture	Ca. 3	Ca. 2.2
	100	100

Ca. = about

The cooked hydrogenated starch hydrolysate used in Examples 1 and 2 had a moisture content of, respectively, 11.5% and 7.5%.





1 Unless otherwise indicated, the total water content  
reported below for each of the chewing gum formulations of  
the Examples is a calculated amount based on the water  
content of the cooked hydrogenated starch hydrolysate (HSH),  
5 about  $8 \pm 4\%$ , and glycerin, about 1 to 4%, (where used) plus  
any added water used in the respective formulations. The  
actual water content of these formulations is about 0.2 to  
0.5% higher than the reported calculated values, since  
such additional amounts of water enter the final formulated  
10 product from the other components of the formulation and from  
the ambient atmosphere. The total of the reported weight  
percents for the respective formulations of these Examples  
will thus total about 100% plus the respectively reported  
calculated water contents.

15 The test formulations were prepared using batch  
pilot plant procedures. Prior to beginning the pilot plant  
batch making process, a batch of cooked HSH/glycerine was  
prepared, and then split into two half batches each of which  
contains one-half of each of the formulated amounts of the  
20 glycerine and the cooked hydrogenated starch hydrolysate that  
are to be used in making the product of each example. One of  
such premixtures is then used in each of steps 3 and 6 noted  
below.

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1 PREPARATION OF CHEWING GUM COMPOSITIONS

Various chewing gum compositions were prepared using various of the gum bases prepared as described above. In preparing the chewing gum compositions, they were prepared 5 in pilot plant sized batches/in paddle mixers. In preparing each batch, the previously prepared gum base is melted at a temperature of up to about  $245^{\circ} \pm 5^{\circ}\text{F}$  and is premixed with lecithin and color additive, and, optionally, the cooked hydrogenated starch hydrolysate, and glycerine, if the latter 10 is used, until the temperature drops to about  $185$  to  $189^{\circ}\text{F}$ . Then there is sequentially added powdered sorbitol (at a temperature of  $\leq 180^{\circ}\text{F}$ ), liquid flavor (i.e., peppermint), liquid sorbitol, if used, glycerin, if used, alone or with the cooked hydrogenated starch hydrolysate, if the latter is 15 not premixed with the gum base, any additional flavorants, and finally the aspartame, and, optionally, any other intense sweeteners. Each component is paddle mixed in before the next is added. Each mixing step takes about 0.5 to 5.0 minutes and the total mixing time is about 10-15 minutes. 20 The resulting product is recovered and further processed and packaged using conventional chewing gum making procedures.

The cooked hydrogenated starch hydrolysate used in the chewing gum compositions evaluated in the Examples had a moisture content of 7.5% or 11.5% and was prepared by 25 cooking, at  $250$  to  $310^{\circ}\text{F}$ , a commercially available aqueous hydrogenated starch hydrolysate which had a solids content of  $75 \pm 1\%$ , a monosaccharide content of about 6 to 8%, a disaccharide content of about 50 to 55%, and a higher saccharide content of about 38 to 48%. The higher 30 saccharides were about 20 to 25% in the 3-7 DP (degree of polymerization) range, and about 18 to 23% in the  $> 7$  DP range.

# 1 GENERAL PREPARATION OF CHEWING GUM PRODUCT

The chewing gum products of the present invention are prepared by first separately preparing the gum base. To then prepare the sugarless chewing gum formulation, the gum base for the product is melted, at a temperature about 190 to 250°F, and the other components of the composition are added thereto. The resulting composition is uniformly admixed. Each of the components is usually separately added to the formulated composition and uniformly mixed in before the next component is added. All of the admixing operations are conducted at temperatures in the range of about 115 to 185°F, and preferably of about 115 to 130°C for a total mixing time, at such temperatures, of about 10 to 20 minutes. These operations do not have to be conducted under anhydrous conditions in preparing the compositions of the present invention, and any amounts of moisture that are normally present in the raw materials other than the uncooked hydrogenated starch hydrolysate that are used in the compositions of the present invention do not usually have to be removed therefrom either prior to, or during, the formulating process. The one exception to this concept of not removing water occurs when using rubber latices as the source of the masticatory substance. As in prior art practice, the moisture content of the latex is, essentially, normally removed after coagulating the latex.

The chewing gum formulations disclosed herein may thus be prepared, and processed into chewing gum products, using conventional chewing gum formulation mixing, processing and packaging equipment and concepts.

The following examples are merely illustrative of the present invention and are not intended as a limitation upon the scope thereof.

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1           Aspartic acid derivative sweetening agents other  
than L-aspartyl-L-phenylalanine methyl ester may also be used  
as the non-nutritive or artificial sweetener. Some of such  
derivatives are disclosed in U.S. Patent 3,955,000 at column  
5 3, line 63 to column 4, line 35 thereof, the disclosure of  
which is hereby incorporated herein by reference. These  
derivatives are also known as dipeptides. Where an aspartic  
acid sweetening agent is employed in the compositions of the  
present invention it is used at about a 0.01 to 2% weight  
10 level.

In addition to the above, the chewing gum made by  
this invention can also contain conventional FD&C and natural  
coloring agents.

The flavoring which can be included in the chewing  
15 gum compositions made according to this invention can  
comprise one or more natural and/or synthetic flavors and/or  
oils derived from plants, leaves, flowers and fruit.  
Representative flavors and oils of these types include acids  
such as adipic, succinic and fumaric acid; citrus oils such  
20 as lemon oil, orange oil, lime oil and grapefruit oil; fruit  
essences, such as apple essence, pear essence, peach essence,  
strawberry essence, apricot essence, raspberry essence,  
cherry essence, plum essence, and pineapple essence;  
essential oils such as peppermint oil, spearmint oil,  
25 mixtures of peppermint oil and spearmint oil, clove oil, bay  
oil, anise oil, oil of nutmeg, oil of sage, oil of bitter  
almonds, cassia oil and methylsalicylate (oil of  
wintergreen). Various synthetic flavors, such as those for a  
mixed fruit, may also be incorporated in the chewing gum with  
30 or without conventional preservatives.

1 The oleaginous material may also include hydrogenated vegetable or animal fats, cocoa butter or other softening emulsifying agents such as phosphatides such as lecithin and di- and tri-glycerides of fatty acids.

5 The mineral fillers would include calcium carbonate, titanium dioxide, talc, alumina, tricalcium phosphate and mixtures thereof.

In addition, the gum base may include antioxidants such as butylated hydroxy toluene, butylated hydroxy anisole  
10 and propyl gallate.

The chewing gum compositions of the present invention are sugarless. The sugar substitutes used in the compositions of this invention include all known non-nutritive sweeteners. The amount of non-nutritive  
15 sweetener which can be used can range from 0 to about 2 weight percent of the final composition.

The non-nutritive or artificial or intense sweeteners which may be used in the compositions of the present invention include poorly water-soluble, as well as  
20 water-soluble, sweeteners such as aspartame or L-aspartyl-L-phenylalanine methyl ester, the free acid form of saccharin, sodium, calcium or ammonium saccharin salts, dihydrochalcones, glycyrrhizin, dipotassium glycyrrhizin, glycyrrhizic acid/ammonium salt, talin, acesulfame K, as well  
25 as Stevia rebaudiana (Stevioside), Richardella dulcifica (Miracle Berry), Dioscoreophyllum cumminisum (Serendipity Berry), free cyclamic acid and cyclamate salts, and the like, or mixtures of any two or more of the above.

The artificial sweetener may be employed with  
30 non-sugar bulk sweeteners (other than the cooked hydrogenated starch hydrolysate) such as dry crystalline sugar alcohols such as sorbitol, xylitol and mannitol.

1           The masticatory substances are elastomeric materials which may be synthetic or natural in origin. The masticatory substances of synthetic origin would include styrene-butadiene copolymer, butyl rubber (which is  
5 isobutylene-isoprene copolymer) and polyisobutylene. The natural masticatory substances would include chicle, crown gum, nispero, balata, jelutong, pendare, perillo, niger gutta, tuna, leche caspi, sorva and gutta hank kang.

          The plasticizer for the masticatory substance will  
10 preferably comprize a hydrogenated ester gum, that is, a glycerol ester of hydrogenated rosin and/or dimerized ester gum. However, other resins may be employed such as pentaerythritol ester gum, polymerized ester gum, polyterpene resin and ester gum.

15           The hydrophilic-type detackifier is a material which will absorb saliva and would include vinyl polymers having a molecular weight of at least 2,000, and preferably of about 2,000 to 80,000 or more, such as polyvinyl acetate, polyvinyl butyl ether and copolymers of vinyl esters and/or  
20 vinyl ethers with ethylene.

          The plasticizers for the hydrophilic type detackifiers would include one or more of triacetin, acetylated glycerides and other flavor adjuvants such as ethyl acetate and triethyl citrate, and others as listed in  
25 U.S. Patent No. 4,452,820 at column 4, lines 27 to 46, the disclosure of which is incorporated herein by reference.

          The oleaginous material includes waxes which are used primarily as compatibilizers/plasticizers between the elastomeric and resin phases, where such two phases are  
30 employed. Examples of the waxes are petroleum waxes such as paraffin wax and microcrystalline wax; the polyethylene waxes; and natural waxes derived from either plant or animal sources such as candelilla wax, carnuba wax and bees wax.

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GUM BASE

The composition of the gum base will vary depending on whether the gum base is to be used in a chewing gum product which is to be a regular, or non-bubble, gum product or a bubble gum product. For use in making a bubble gum or regular chewing gum product, the following gum base formulations may be used, in accordance with the present invention:

Weight % of Component in Gum Base For

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<u>Component</u>	<u>Bubble Gum Product</u>		<u>Regular Gum Product</u>	
	<u>Broad Range</u>	<u>Preferred Range</u>	<u>Broad Range</u>	<u>Preferred Range</u>
15 Masticatory material	8-22	9-18	8-25	9-18
plasticizer for masticatory material	5-35	10-20	2-30	8-20
20 hydrophilic detackifier	0-30	4-10	5-35	10-25
25 plasticer for hydrophilic detackifier	0-14	0-8	1-15	3-12
wax	3-15	5-10	4-20	8-15
30 mineral filler	1-35	10-22	5-35	15-30
antioxidant	0-0.1	0.05-0.09	0-0.1	0.03-0.09
Total	100		100	

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1 The chewing gum products of the present invention would have the following formulation:

<u>Component</u>	<u>Weight % of Component</u>	
	<u>Broad Range</u>	<u>Preferred Range</u>
5 gum base	15 to 35	20 to 30
cooked hydrogenated starch hydrolysate	10 to 30	10 to 20
10 glycerine	0 to 12	5 to 9
modifying agent other than glycerine	0 to 5	0.3 to 3.0
15 bulking agent or bulk sweetener	20 to 70	30 to 50
non-nutritive sweetener	0 to 2	0.1 to 0.4
20 coloring agent	0.1 to 0.5	0.15 to 0.3
flavoring agent (other than sweetener)	0.5 to 2.5	0.18 to 1.2
25 moisture*	<u>2 to 8</u>	<u>2.0 to 5.0</u>
Total	100	100

30 \* Moisture content contributed by all components.

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1 made according to the present invention, which has good flexible properties, will bend or shape, without breaking or crumbling, after at least two or three 180° turns of the fingers, into a helical shaped structure before tearing.

5 A non-flexible stick of gum, on the other hand, will typically break up or crumble after, or before, the completion of only one 180° turn of the fingers.

The flexibility properties of the stick chewing gum products made according to the present invention will last 10 during prolonged storage of such products, i.e., for at least 9 to 12 months, when the products are stored at 40 to 70% relative humidity and at 20 to 30°C.

Although many prior art sugarless stick regular chewing gum products may pass the above described flexibility 15 test when they are freshly made, and are warm, they will not do so after they have been cooled down to room temperature, i.e., 20-25°C.

#### CHEWING GUM COMPOSITIONS

The chewing gum compositions contemplated by the 20 present invention comprise all types of sugarless chewing gums and chewing gum formulations known to those skilled in the art, including the regular gum and the bubble gum types. Typical chewing gum compositions comprise a chewing gum base, a modifier, a bulking agent or sweetener, and one or more 25 other additives such as flavoring agents, colorants and antioxidants. The modifying agents are used to soften, plasticize and/or compatibilize one or more of the components of the gum base and/or of the formulation as a whole.

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1           This solid glossy material melts, or becomes  
pourable, at a temperature of about 212 to 220°F. When using  
cooked hydrogenated starch hydrolysate in the chewing gum  
products of the present invention which has been made with  
5 less than about 4% glycerine, it is preferable, to facilitate  
the incorporation of the cooked material into the chewing gum  
composition, to use the cooked hydrogenated starch  
hydrolysate just after it has been cooked, and it is still in  
a heated and liquid state. It is preferable under such  
10 circumstances to allow the cooked hydrogenated starch  
hydrolysate (made with less than 4% glycerine) to cool down  
to about 150 to 160°F before incorporating it into the  
chewing gum formulation.

When the cooked hydrogenated starch hydrolysate is  
15 made with about 4 to 12% glycerine, it is preferable to cool  
it down to about 100 to 110°F before it is added to the  
chewing gum formulation.

The products of the present invention are made and  
used in stick form. The sticks are about 0.065 to 0.072 inch  
20 in thickness, about 3/4 inch in width, and about 2 7/8 to 3  
inches in length.

The term "flexible" as used herein means a  
characteristic denoted by testing individual sticks of gum in  
accordance with the following test procedure:

25           A single stick of gum, which is at room  
temperature, i.e., about 20-25°C, is held between the thumb  
and index finger of both hands, along the wide sides of the  
stick, and within 0.5 to 1.0 inch of each end of the stick,  
and is then slowly twisted in opposite directions relative to  
30 the long axis of the wide side of the stick. A stick of gum

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1       The chewing gum products of the present invention, have a moisture content of about 2 to 8%, and preferably of about 2 to 5%.

5       The chewing gum products of the present invention may also comprise about  $\geq 0$  to 12%, and preferably about 5 to 9%, of glycerine. The glycerine assists in providing long term storage flexibility, as well as initial softness of chew. The glycerin may be cooked with the hydrogenated starch hydrolysate and added as such to the chewing gum  
10 formulation, or it may be added separately. When the glycerine is cooked with the hydrogenated starch hydrolysate the cooking temperature should not exceed the decomposition temperature of the glycerin, which is about 290°C.

15       The chewing gum products of the present invention have ERH values of  $> 25$  to 50, and preferably of about 30 to 50 and most preferably about 30 to 40.

20       The cooked hydrogenated starch hydrolysate and/or the glycerin may be added to the gum base portion, or with the non-gum base components, when formulating the products of the present invention. The cooked hydrogenated starch hydrolysate, with or without glycerin cooked therewith, is cooled to below about 150°F before being admixed with the other components of the chewing gum products of the present invention.

25       When the cooked hydrogenated starch hydrolysate is prepared (cooked) with less than about 4% glycerine, the resulting product is in a glossy solid state at room temperature. When the cooked hydrogenated starch hydrolysate is made with about 4 to 12% glycerine, the resulting product  
30 is a liquid or is pourable at room temperature.

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- 1 standard glucose syrups (acid and/or enzyme converted) to the point where all the glucose end groups of the saccharides are reduced to alcohols, that is, dextrose to sorbitol. In the case of hydrogenated glucose syrups, the total solids
- 5 contents will usually range from about 65 to about 80%, which solids are made from about 4 to about 70%, and preferably from about 4 to about 20%, sorbitol, from about 65%, hydrogenated disaccharides (that is, mannitol), and 20 to 80% for the higher ( $\geq$  tri to hepta) hydrogenated saccharides.
- 10 The preferred of the uncooked commercially available hydrogenated starch hydrolysates contain from about 8 to about 45%, and preferably about 15 to 45%, tri- to hepta-hydrogenated saccharides, and from about 10 to about 35%, and preferably about 15 to 25%, hydrogenated saccharides
- 15 higher than hepta.

The commercially available hydrogenated starch hydrolysate is also referred to in the literature as hydrogenated glucose syrup, or by the trademark or tradename Lycasin polyol or Lonza polyol. The term hydrogenated starch

20 hydrolysate will be used herein to designate such material. The hydrogenated starch hydrolysate is usually sold commercially in the form of an aqueous solution thereof having a moisture content of about 20 to 35%.

The chewing gum compositions of the present

25 invention are made with about  $20 \pm 10\%$ , and preferably about  $15 \pm 5\%$  of the cooked hydrogenated starch hydrolysate. When less than about 10% of the cooked hydrogenated starch hydrolysate is used, the resulting products have poor flexibility properties, and when more than about 30% is used

30 the resulting product is too soft.

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1 gum, in stick form, can be provided if the sugarless chewing gum is formulated with about  $20 \pm 10\%$  of aqueous hydrogenated starch hydrolysate which has been cooked to achieve a moisture content of about  $8 \pm 4\%$ .

5           The cooked aqueous hydrogenated starch hydrolysate used in the compositions of the present invention has a moisture content of about  $8 \pm 4\%$ . This cooked hydrogenated starch hydrolysate is prepared by cooking, or heating, commercially available aqueous solutions of the hydrogenated  
10 starch hydrolysate which have moisture contents of about 20 to 35%, at a temperature of about 250 to 310°F, and preferably of about 260 to 290°F, until the desired low moisture content of the cooked material is attained. This may take about 0.5 to 1 hour for a 100 gallon batch of a  
15 commercially available aqueous solution of hydrogenated starch hydrolysate having a moisture content of about 25%.

          The uncooked commercially available hydrogenated starch which may be used to form the cooked hydrogenated starch hydrolysate used in the compositions of the present  
20 invention may be a hydrogenated corn syrup or hydrogenated starch hydrolysate of varying dextrose equivalents (DE), such as are disclosed in U.S. Patent Re. No. 26,959 and U.S. Patent Nos. 3,556,811, 4,279,931 and 4,382,962, as well as various hydrogenated glucose syrups and/or reconstituted  
25 powders which contain sorbitol, hydrogenated disaccharides, tri- to hexa-hydrogenated saccharides, and hydrogenated higher polysaccharides, or mixtures of any two or more of the above.

          The uncooked commercially available hydrogenated  
30 glucose syrups or hydrogenated starch hydrolysates and/or powders thereof may be produced by catalytic hydrogenation of

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1 all or a portion of the mannitol previously used with other  
solid sweeteners, such as xylitol and/or sorbitol, in such  
products. The hydrogenated starch hydrolysate is used as an  
aqueous softening agent. When used in a liquid filling in  
5 the chewing gum, the hydrogenated starch hydrolysate may have  
a moisture content of 15 to 20% (column 4, lines 20-25 and  
column 9, lines 54-60). When used in the sugarless chewing  
gum composition the hydrogenated starch hydrolysate has a  
moisture content of 17 to 30%, depending, basically, on the  
10 amount of the hydrogenated starch hydrolysate that is used  
(column 8, lines 37-50). The lower the amount of the  
hydrogenated starch hydrolysate that is to be used, the  
higher is the moisture content of such material.

Commercially available aqueous hydrogenated starch  
15 hydrolysate which has a moisture content of about 20 to 35%  
has been proposed as a stabilizing agent for aspartame in  
chewing gum and other comestibles, see in this regard, U.S.  
patent applications S.N. 677,717 filed December 4, 1984 in  
the names of D.R. Friello et al., and entitled "Comestible  
20 Containing Moisture And Shelf Storage Stabilized L-Aspartic  
Acid Derivative" and S.N. 677,716 filed December 4, 1984 in  
the names of D.R. Friello et al., and entitled "Comestible  
Containing Moisture,  $\text{CaCO}_3$  and Shelf Storage Stabilized  
L-Aspartic Acid Derivative."

25 Prior to the present invention it has not been  
possible to provide, in stick form, regular sugarless gum  
which has the cohesive and flexible properties of good  
quality sugar based regular stick chewing gum.

The present invention provides a sugarless stick  
30 chewing gum which is flexible during storage. According to  
the present invention, a cohesive, flexible sugarless chewing

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1        Thus, such products having very low ERH values  
would require that they be processed and wrapped under  
special atmospheric conditions of low humidity and controlled  
temperature. Such conditions are expensive and difficult to  
5 maintain.

      Equivalent relative humidity (ERH) or relative  
vapor pressure is the humidity at which a foodstuff neither  
gains nor loses moisture and the figure is expressed as a  
percentage. A discussion of ERH relative to food products  
10 and a method for the determination thereof is to be found in  
"Chocolate, Cocoa and Confectionery," Science and Technology,  
Second Edition, 1980, Bernard M. Minifie, AVI Publishing Co.,  
Inc. Westport, Connecticut, U.S.A., Appendix I, pp. 672-677  
(the disclosure of which is incorporated herein by  
15 reference). The test procedure disclosed in such publication  
is the one used for testing and evaluating the compositions  
disclosed herein.

      U.S. 4,248,895 discloses the preparation of a dried  
non-hygroscopic free flowing powder that is made by drying a  
20 higher polyalcohol, such as hydrogenated starch hydrolysate,  
with a concentrated protein extract. The dried material has  
a moisture content of about 2 to 6% and may be used as a  
sweetener in confections such as chewing gum to provide  
products having prolonged shelf life in terms of retained  
25 flexibility and softness. The dried hydrogenated starch  
hydrolysate may also be used in combination with hydrogenated  
starch hydrolysate syrup having a moisture content of 15 to  
40%.

      U.S. 4,382,962 discloses the preparation of  
30 sugarless chewing gum made with a specific aqueous  
hydrogenated starch hydrolysate that is designed to replace



FLEXIBLE SUGARLESS CHEWING GUM

The present invention relates to sugarless chewing gum products that are very flexible for prolonged periods of storage and which are prepared by formulating the product with aqueous hydrogenated starch hydrolysate that has been cooked to a moisture content of about  $8 \pm 4\%$ . Glycerine may also be added with the cooked hydrogenated starch hydrolysate.

10 Regular (non-bubble) sugarless chewing gum, in stick form, and as formulated prior to the present invention, has very poor cohesive, or flexible properties. Further, this lack of flexibility and cohesiveness becomes even more pronounced as the product ages during its shelf life. This  
15 has been found to be true, even when the product is made with relatively large amounts of plasticizing agents such as glycerin. Sugar (sucrose) based chewing gums, on the other hand, in stick form are relatively cohesive and flexible even after extended shelf life histories.

20 Further, various of the prior art chewing gum products have very low moisture contents, i.e., of about 1 to 2%, and also have relatively low equivalent relative humidity (ERH) values, i.e., of the order of about 10 to 25. During the storage of such products under ambient conditions  
25 of about 40 to 70% relative humidity and about 20 to 30°C, these (low value) ERH properties of such products will cause such products to absorb relatively large amounts of water from the atmosphere. Such increased amounts of water will adversely affect various qualities of the product, and  
30 adversely affect the stability of any water decomposable components of such products.



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(54) Flexible sugarless chewing gum.

(57) Sugarless stick chewing gum which is flexible for extended shelf life periods is made with cooked aqueous hydrogenated starch hydrolysate having a moisture content of about  $8 \pm 4\%$ , and which may also contain glycerine.

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